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Endowed Charities. COURTNEY KENNY. London, 1880. pp. 280.

One of the objects of the author is to make his book useful as well to politicians, who may take part in charitable reforms, as to charity trustees or benevolent persons, who in planning charitable gifts, may desire to enhance their liberality by a wise prescience. The materials are taken chiefly from the Blue-books of the last sixty years. The conclusions of the author are: That endowed charities have done more good than harm, and should be encouraged. Foundations in themselves are usually good, but left to themselves, usually become bad; there must be constant supervision and periodical revision. The one will restrain the principle of caducity, the other will counteract the principle of obsolescence. A considerable minority of foundations either spring from a bad origin or tend to a bad result. Lest this minority should be increased, the law must impose certain restrictions on the establishment of new foundations.

The Tramp at Home, by LEE MERIWETHER. New York, 1889.

The author has spent some time in the old world as well as in the new, in gathering labor statistics. The results of investigations in this country are given in this book. But the dry figures are clothed with incidents, amusing and otherwise, that befell the author in his intercourse with the working classes. Although the book is popular in its style, yet it is not without interest to a more serious study of sociological questions. The author seems to consider present society as in an abnormal state; and, however one may regard this point of view, he is still made conscious of how all questions of social pathology (crime, pauperism, etc.) are inseparably linked together. The sociologists and statisticians show the crowded condition of the poor in cities, low wages, high cost of living, and sewing and saleswomen working fourteen and sixteen hours a day for pittance scarcely sufficient to support life. The working men are generally told, in order to be happy and prosperous that they should organize, co-operate, be educated, practice temperance, economy and industry. To these admonitions in themselves there are no objections. But they are all makeshifts; they only remedy evils already created, but do not go to the heart of the matter and seek to prevent the evil. When women that are sober, intelligent and economical, work from early morning till late at night, and still actually hunger for bread, the plea that education, temperance and economy are the preventives, falls to the ground. Why will sewing-women, cloak-makers, and others, work for three dollars a week? Is it not because of the over-supply of labor? Because our cities are teeming with unemployed labor? The problem primarily resolves itself into that of counteracting and preventing abnormal concentration of population in cities. In 1780 less than a thirtieth of our population lived in cities of eight thousand and over. In 1880, nearly one-fourth of the population lived in cities of eight thousand and over. The Federal Government has said to the farmer, for a great part of our national existence, manufacturing is not profitable; farming pays well; we will take part of your profits to make up the manufacturer's deficit. This puts a premium on manufacturing (going to cities) and a penalty on farming, which has become unprofitable; so the farmers move into the city and increase the competition. The first preventive then is to cease governmental premiums to cities and penalties to farmers. The second preventive is a graduated land-tax, with its expected train of benefits. The day will come, says the author, when every citizen will be able to retain and enjoy the wealth he himself has created. In that day both the billionaire and the tramp will go.